

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

The Table.

—Macaroni: Put it on in cold water and boil steadily for three-fourths of an hour; drain the water off; put in a cupful of milk, and a lump of butter of the size of an egg. Serve hot.

—White Cake: Three cupfuls of sugar, one cupful of butter, one cupful of sweet milk, the whites of eight eggs, three and a half cupfuls of flour, half a cupful of corn-starch, and three teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. Bake in layers, and spread with custard or icing.

—Drop Ginger Cake: One cupful of butter or lard, one cupful of white sugar, one pint of molasses, three eggs, one cupful of hot water with two teaspoonfuls of soda dissolved in it, one tablespoonful of ginger, and flour enough to make a tolerably stiff batter. Drop with a spoon into a long pan.

Mixed Pickles: Little cucumbers about two inches long, green tomatoes, ears of sweet corn about the size of the cucumbers, a dozen small white onions, some pods of string beans and the tender pods of the radish, four or five small green peppers and some bits of horse-radish root; all of these soak over night in a weak brine; drain through a colander and pack in a two-quart can and fill the can with boiling hot spiced vinegar.

—Canning String Beans: Prepare the beans as if for immediate use, put them on in a kettle of cold water. Boil until tender; have ready the tin cans and a teakettle of boiling water; dip the beans out into the cans and fill up with the boiling water from the teakettle; seal immediately; when you wish to use them dip out of the cans, put them on in boiling water and season either with a piece of breakfast bacon or with a white sauce made of butter rubbed with flour, cream, pepper and salt.

Apricot Jam: To every pound of ripe apricots, weighed after being skinned and stoned, allow one pound of sugar. Pare the apricots, which should be ripe, as thinly as possible, break them in half and remove the stones, weigh the fruit, and to every pound allow the same proportion of loaf sugar; roll the sugar fine, strew it over the apricots, which should be placed on dishes, and let them remain for twelve hours, then put the sugar or fruit into a preserving pan, let them simmer very gently until clear, take out the pieces of apricots singly as they become clear, and as fast as the scum arises carefully remove it; put the apricots in small jars, pour over them the sirup, cover the jam with pieces of paper dipped in the purest salad oil, and stretch over the top of the jars tissue paper cut about two inches larger and brushed over with the white of an egg; when dry it will be perfectly hard and airtight.

Miscellaneous.

—Corn is said to be sweeter if boiled with the inner husks on; strip the husks back, pick off the silk, then put the husks back again over the ear of corn and boil it.

—To preserve horse-radish for next winter's use: Grate it as late in the season as possible; pour good white vinegar over it and seal up in air-tight bottles or other glass vessels. Ordinary vinegar will discolor the horse-radish.

—Coffee is the best when bought in the bean and freshly roasted or warmed just before grinding and using. A very good breakfast coffee can be made by using about two ounces or four heaping tablespoonfuls of finely ground coffee to each quart of boiling water. After the coffee is made it should not boil, but stand where it will keep hot without boiling for 10 minutes until settled.

—To renovate an old silk dress: Dilute ammonia with alcohol, sponge on the right side and iron at once on the wrong. Or, cut into shreds an old kid glove, as near the color of your silk as possible; pour over a pint of water and boil until reduced to half the quantity; strain, add a tablespoonful of alcohol and sponge and iron as above. Sponging with flax-seed water will also give a gloss and stiffness to an old silk.

—To remove grease from clothes: Apply French chalk in the powder with a flannel cloth to both sides of the material where soiled and rub it well in. Then apply as much more chalk as will thickly cover the spot and lay the garment away for a few days. On brushing the powder out the grease will all have disappeared if these instructions

are properly carried out. Should any trace remain make another application. Wheat flour or ordinary toilet powder applied similarly will in most cases prove effective.

—To relieve burning feet, first discard tight boots; then take one pint bran and one ounce bi-carbonate of soda, put in a foot-bath, add one gallon of hot water; when cool enough, soak your feet in this mixture for fifteen minutes. The relief is instantaneous. This must be repeated every night for a week or perhaps more. The bran and bi-carbonate should be made fresh after a week's use. Bi-carbonate of soda can be purchased for a small price per pound from wholesale druggists. The burning sensation is produced by the pores of the skin being closed, so that the feet do not perspire.

How Bessemer Learned.

It will be of interest to the reader to learn that, according to Bessemer's statement, his knowledge of iron metallurgy was at that time very limited, so that he had to get up the whole of the subject. He is now, however, of opinion that his ignorance proved of great advantage to him, as he had very little to unlearn, and could thus approach the subject free from the bias inseparable from those who have followed a beaten track and vainly endeavor to get out of the rut. These words of Bessemer required, however, to be carefully considered. He does not imply that a state of ignorance would enable him to invent, as many schemers imagine, who put forth crude ideas which are crushed by practical men. He set to work to learn the whole business thoroughly, first from books and then in the foundries. Still it will be seen that here was a man well on in the world, who set himself to hard learning, while many of us think that we can do very well without learning at all, or without learning any more. To the public who thus get details at first hand, it is also of interest to know that, having built a small experimental iron-works in St. Pancras, and begun his preliminary trials, months rolled on, and he spared neither labor nor money, but made failure after failure. To the wise man however, failure is a way of learning, and failures are carefully recorded, first, because they show us the way how to save our time by not trying the failure over again; secondly, because they show us, through narrowing the field, in what way we must try; and thirdly, because they in themselves often suggest some further experiment. Bessemer, indeed, says that during this long time of failure he was accumulating many important facts which could not but ultimately be of value to him.—*London Society.*

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